

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2009

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND
FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 3426 ARN
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am very troubled with recent news accounts stating that senior Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials blocked consideration of a report developed by two staff members at EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE), questioning the science behind EPA's endangerment finding. Even more alarming is the report from last month that the Obama Administration is considering removing the NCEE from its current role in scientific and economic analysis. It would appear that EPA is not taking steps that are based in science and in search of fact, but is rather motivated by a political agenda.

It is telling that the authors of the report, Drs. Alan Carlin and John Davidson, are both career employees who have been at NCEE since the early 1980s. They have served EPA through several administrations of varying ideologies. They are not political appointees with an agenda; one is an economist and the other a scientist. As you know, their report begins with the following assertion: "We have become increasingly concerned that EPA and many other agencies and countries have paid too little attention to the science of global warming. EPA and others have tended to accept the findings reached by outside groups...as being correct without a careful and critical examination of their conclusions and documentation."

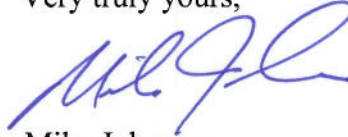
Any new regulations from EPA regarding greenhouse gas emissions will have serious consequences for American business, agriculture, and everyday life. EPA's first and foremost responsibility is to seek the truth, not advance a political agenda. It appears that despite their best efforts, the doctors' report was not considered when EPA developed its endangerment finding, but rather that it was stifled in this Administration's haste to impose further regulations on American businesses.

Since before being elected, President Obama has stressed the importance of openness and transparency in government. I agree that all government officials must be accountable to the citizens they represent. EPA's recent actions are of serious concern to me, and appear to be in direct conflict with the President's March 9 memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies, which stated: "Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions."

Please provide me your assurance that NCEE will continue to play a role in providing economic and scientific analysis on potential findings and regulations. Additionally, I would appreciate a detailed explanation of the formal review process and consideration given to the report authored by Drs. Carlin and Davidson.

The courtesy of a prompt response would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Johanns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Johanns
United States Senator